

NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF SLED DOG SPORTS

JUNIOR DIVISION SPRINT RACE RULES

AMENDED APRIL ~~2003~~1999

DEFINITIONS

JUNIOR DRIVER:	a person five (5) years to <u>sixteen (16) years inclusive</u> old who is competing in a junior class sled dog race.
TRAIL:	the marked course that all drivers follow.
RACE MARSHAL:	the person who has authority over the junior drivers and the race event to see that the rules are obeyed.
MAY:	is permissive (may or may but be allowed).
MUST/WILL:	is imperative (driver must obey the rule).
RACE:	means competition in a certain class with one (1) or more heats.
HEAT:	means completing the race trail once.

A. ENTRY RULES

1. A junior driver must fill out the entry form and pay the entry fee by the race deadline (s).
 - a. The entry form must be signed by the junior mushers parent or legal guardian.
2. The junior driver who starts on the first day of any race must drive his/her team each day, unless the driver gets sick or hurt.
 - a. The race marshal may reduce the number of dogs on a team if he feels the team is bigger than the junior driver can control.
3. The race marshal will decide if any dog or team is fit to run in any race.
 - a. A race marshal may reduce the number of dogs on a team if he feels the team is bigger than the junior driver can control.
 - b. A team that is disqualified may not run in another heat of that class.
4. Dogs will be marked on the first day of a two (2) day race.
 - a. Dogs not running after the first day will be marked on the second day of a three (3) day race.
5. A junior driver must leave any sick or hurt dog(s) out of the race.
 - a. Dogs may be dropped from a team between heats for a race event.
 - b. Teams must be inspected for physical condition before each heat.
6. No dogs or equipment will be allowed in the race area that are from a kennel where there are contagious diseases such as rabies, distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis etc., exist.
7. All dogs in team must wear a harness that is padded at the shoulders and neck and be fastened in the team by a line at the back of the harness and a neckline on the collar, except for the lead dog(s).
8. A sled must also have a brake, brushbow and snubline and/or snow hook.
9. A junior driver must wear the bib number provided at each race.
10. A junior driver must wear a safety helmet.

B. AGE AND CLASS RULES

1. One Dog Class
 - a. Driver minimum age, five (5) years old.
 - b. Maximum number of dogs on a team, one (1) dog.
 - c. Trail length: 5-7 years maximum, 1.5 kilometre (entire course to be visible by judges).
7-11 years maximum, 2 kilometres
11 onwards maximum, 3 kilometres.
2. Two and Three Dog Classes
 - a. Driver minimum ages: 2 dog class, eight (8) years, 3 dog class, eleven (11) years.
 - b. Maximum number of dogs on teams: 2 dog class, two (2) dogs; 3 dog class, two (2) dogs.
 - c. Trail lengths: maximum, 8km (5 miles); minimum 1.6km (1) mile.
3. Four Dog Class
 - a. Driver minimum age: thirteen (13) years.
 - b. Maximum number of dogs on team four (4). Minimum number of dogs on team three (3).
 - c. Trail lengths: maximum, 12km, minimum 3 km.

4. Six Dog Class
 - a. Driver minimum age: fifteen (15) years.
 - b. Maximum number of dogs on team: six (6) dogs. Minimum number of dogs on team: four (4) dogs.
 - c. Trail lengths: maximum, 15km (8 miles); minimum 5km (3 miles).
- ~~5. Eight Dog Class

 - a. Driver minimum age, eighteen (18) years.
 - b. Maximum number of dogs on team: eight (8) dogs. Minimum number of dogs on team, six (6) dogs.
 - c. Trail lengths: minimum, 15km (8 miles).~~
5. A junior driver may enter the junior program at any age.
 - a. To progress from one age group class to another, junior drivers must provide evidence (race results, driver's record for, etc) validating of providing previous experience.
6. A junior driver must successfully compete in two (2) NZFSS Junior Division recognised races in his/her class to qualify to move up into the next class.
 - a. A junior driver entering any age class, other than the one (1) dog class, with no previous racing experience, must successfully complete the requirements of the previous age class.
7. A junior driver must have the race marshal certify on the Junior Driver Record Form one of the following:
 - a. Successful completion of the race.
 - b. Disqualification and for what reason.
 - c. Did not finish and for what reason.

C. START/FINISH RULES

1. A team must be at the starting line at the assigned starting time.
 - a. Number one (1) starts first, number two (2) starts second, etc.
2. On the second day of the race, the teams start in the order of the finishing times on the first day.
 - a. The team with the fastest time starts first, the second fastest time starts second etc.
3. A team must be at the starting line at the assigned starting time.
 - a. If a team is late, that team must wait until all other teams have started, and then start.
 - b. If more than one team is late, they start in the order of the draw.
 - c. If a team is late for a second start time, it is disqualified.
4. A team that does not clear (get out of) the starting chute before the next team starts, may be disqualified.
5. The race marshal will identify official handlers and trail help before the race and define what kind of help they can give a junior driver and team in the starting chute and on the trail.
6. The brushbow of the sled will be the starting point of the team.
7. A team is finished when the first dog in the team crosses the finish line.
 - a. If a loose team crosses the finish line, the team's time is recorded when the driver crosses the finish line.
8. If two teams have the same total finish time for the whole race, that time will be declared a "tie" and the drivers will share the prizes for the higher and lower "tied" places.

D. TRAIL RULES

1. The trail markings are:
 - a. Right Turn * red marker on right side of trail.
 - b. Left Turn * red marker on left side of trail.
 - c. Straight Ahead * blue markers on either side of trail.
 - d. Caution (be careful) * yellow or orange markers.
 - e. End of Starting Chute * red markers on both sides of trail.
 - f. One Half mile " No Right of Way Zone" on incoming trail *red markers on both sides of trail.
2. A team and junior driver must complete the race trail as marked.
 - a. If a team leaves the trail, the driver must get the team back on the trail at the place where the team left the trail.
3. A junior driver must catch a loose dog or team on foot.
 - a. Trail help will stop and hold loose dogs and teams.
4. All dogs starting a heat must cross the finish line as part of the team or in the basket of the sled.
5. A junior driver can ride on the sled runners, pedal or run.
6. A junior driver will not do anything to interfere with another team.
7. Passengers may not ride in the sled during a race except in an emergency.
8. Drivers may help each other if needed.
9. A team that is in motion has the right of way over a team(s) that is stopped.
 - a. Teams catching up to the team in front of them have the right of way.
 - b. Teams going down hill on a head on passing trail have the right of way.

- c. At the "no right of way" finish zone, no home coming team has the right of way over another home coming team
- d. If teams are still leaving the starting line in a common start/finish chute, the home coming team has the right of way.
- e. In passing a team on a trail, junior drivers will try to stay clear of the other team(s) so that the teams don't get tangled together.
- f. After a team has been passed, the junior driver of the passed team will allow the passing team to get well out in front before starting his/her team.

E. CONDUCT

- 1. A junior driver will treat his dogs, handlers, the race officials, and the public with respect, consideration and courtesy.
- 2. Any abuse of dogs will result in disqualification.
- 3. The race marshal's decisions will be final.